United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott Eastern District of California

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MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL DAVID RAMIREZ, 24, of Newman, California was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to 10 years in prison followed by 180 months of supervised release for receiving visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. He was convicted after a three-day jury trial on January 16, 2008.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and the Fresno Office of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to United States Attorney Sheila K. Oberto, who prosecuted the case, the defendant obtained movie files depicting the sexual exploitation of minors through a peer-to-peer file sharing program that permits computer users connected to the Internet to share files. Such programs can also be used to search for and download child pornography .Law enforcement officers found more than 80 images and 200 videos depicting the sexual exploitation of minors on the defendant's computer and external hard drive. At trial, RAMIREZ repeatedly denied intentionally receiving any images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors. RAMIREZ was remanded into custody following return of the guilty verdict.